THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

April, 2025 Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - SPRING 2025

Greetings from Memphis! I write this message in early March on a beautifully sunny but cold morning in west Tennessee. But, at least for birds, spring migration has begun. Looking at eBird records for Shelby County shows that Purple Martins, Tree Swallows, and Barn Swallows have all been observed this week. Oh boy! Northern Parulas and other warblers, Chimney Swifts, tanagers, thrushes, vireos, and more will soon cheer up our days. This annual spectacle will continue for the next couple months and will coincide with the TOS Spring meeting. **The Chattanooga chapter will host the Spring meeting May 2nd – 4th; the spring migration will still be near its peak and birding should be fantastic.** I hope to see many migrants – and many of you – in May in Chattanooga!

I would like to share with you a couple updates. First, TOS recently signed on to a comment letter asking the EPA not to grant special permission to modify labeling requirements for pesticides. This permission, if granted, would block local governments from updating labels with warnings about the use of some toxic chemicals, making it more difficult to protect wildlife, ecosystems, and communities from harmful pesticides. I thank the TOS Conservation Committee for bringing this issue to my attention, and if you wish to learn more, please visit the American Bird Conservancy at https://abcbirds.org/.

Second, Wisdom, a Laysan Albatross that is the world's oldest known banded wild bird, has laid another egg this year. See page 9 for more information. Wisdom's incredible story reminds me of another bird, Pale Male, the Red-tailed Hawk that lived and bred in Central Park for over 30 years. I cannot help but wonder how many other remarkable bird stories of resilience, longevity, and success would resonate with so many people if only we were aware of them. These feathered creatures will never cease to amaze me!

Have a wonderful Spring and Summer, and Good Birding!

Warmly,
Michael Collins
President, TOS

Tennessee Ornithological Society Spring Meeting, 2025

The Chattanooga Chapter will host the 2025 TOS Spring Meeting, May 2-4. We at CTOS are eager to share our scenic city and birding hot spots with you!

The meeting sites are a short walking distance from each other, and steps from Aquarium Plaza in downtown Chattanooga.

Friday evening's reception will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott Chattanooga Downtown, from 5-8 PM. Registration packets, name badges, and field trip sign-ups will be available during the reception, and also in the morning prior to field trips. Saturday afternoon's Board of Directors meeting will also take place at the Courtyard Marriott. Saturday night's banquet and program, beginning at 6PM, will be at nearby Puckett's Restaurant. Dinner will be a buffet with conventional and vegetarian choices. There are numerous other restaurants in downtown Chattanooga and the vicinity. We will be able to accommodate only 70 people for the dinner and speaker program on Saturday evening, so register soon.

For Saturday night's program, Dr. David Aborn, professor of ornithology at UTC, presents "What's in a Name? Background and Discussion on the Proposed Changes to North American Bird Names". Dr Aborn has developed a highly entertaining and informative visual presentation, guaranteed to generate a lively discussion!

A room block will be held for TOS through April 2 at the Courtyard Marriott at the special rate of $189/night. Breakfast and parking are included. The price for the banquet/program is $25. **Book your group rate for Chattanooga TOS**

TOS Spring Meeting 2025 Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Cell phone _____

TOS Chapter affiliation or County_____

Chapter or State Officer position, if applicable_____

Is this your first TOS meeting? yes_____ no_____

$_____ for ____Registration(s) at $10 each

$_____ for ____Banquet/program reservations at $25 each

$_____payable to Chattanooga TOS

Via Mail: David Stone, CTOS Treasurer
PO Box 330
Ooltewah, TN,37363

Online payment: chattanoogatos.org/

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATA DUE

Christmas bird count data are due as soon as possible to allow me to get my report in to the editor of *The Migrant* in a timely fashion. Besides the actual count data, please be sure to include the following effort data:

1 - Hours and miles by car, foot, and any night-birding

2 - Number of observers and parties

3 - Any feeder watching hours & names

4 - Start and end times for the count

5 - Weather data for the count

6 - Names of all the participants

7 - Anything else about the count, i.e., record high or low numbers, extraordinary weather, all-time species total for your count, etc.

If you do not have a local compiler, you can send the data directly to me at the address/email below.

TOS appreciates your efforts to record and track our bird populations and abundance. Thanks for helping us to archive this data for future generations and researchers.

Ron Hoff • TOS State Count Compiler
166 Chahyga Way • Loudon, TN 37774 • 865-567-9679
webe2brdrs@gmail.com

Wanted! A New TOS State Bird Count Compiler

After 20+ years serving as the TOS State Bird Count Compiler, Ron Hoff is retiring. Thank you, Ron, for the tremendous job you have done! Now we need someone to take his place so we can continue to publish the results of our counts in *The Migrant*.

TOS conducts three statewide counts each year – Spring, Fall, and Christmas Counts. The local compiler for each count forwards the data to the State Count Compiler who then puts it all together for publication. Ron has been compiling all three counts, but the counts could be divided between 2 or 3 people. Ron is happy to answer questions from anyone who is interested and will gladly help the new compiler. Feel free to call or text him at 865-567-9679.

Ready to volunteer? Contact Michael Collins at collinsm@rhodes.edu or Chris Welsh at cwelsh@retiree.utk.edu

2025 TOS GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tennessee Ornithological Society solicits applications for conservation and research grants to support projects that directly or indirectly help to protect the birds of Tennessee, increase scientific knowledge, or educate others about the importance of Tennessee's birds. Anyone with a bird-related project, including students, professionals, and individual workers, may compete for a grant. This year, the Conservation Research and Funding Committee again received many strong proposals, and TOS has funded five particularly promising projects.

Here are the TOS-funded projects for 2025! In East Tennessee, Katheryn Albrecht and Amy Gaddy will work on a farmland raptor project to engage private landowners to support raptors and their habitats in farmland and grassland areas. Emmy James will conduct a study in East Tennessee examining the effects of competition on thermoregulatory behavior in Tree Swallow chicks. Zaharia Selman will investigate environmental and social predictors of call variation in Carolina Chickadees with a network analysis approach. In West Tennessee, Rin Pell will investigate egg coloration and brood parasite responses in a population of Prothonotary Warblers that consistently ejects cowbird eggsin order to identify which visual egg characteristics trigger this response, unknown in other populations of this species. In Middle Tennessee, Cyndi Routledge will begin a study to document the prevalence and diversity of blood-borne parasites in Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

If you know any of these recipients, please congratulate them and ask them about their project. TOS looks forward to hearing from these grant recipients at statewide or chapter meetings, with updates in The Tennessee Warbler, or with an article in The Migrant.

Respectfully,
Michael Collins
Conservation Research and Funding Committee, Chair

BALD EAGLE: NOW IT'S OFFICIAL

The Bald Eagle has unofficially been the national bird of the United States since its appearance in 1782 on the Great Seal, symbolizing the sovereignty of the U. S. as a nation. But the species didn't get official status until late December.

On Christmas Eve, President Biden signed 50 bills into law, and one of them designated the Bald Eagle as the official bird of the United States. It had been a bipartisan legislative effort, led by Representatives Brad Finstad (R-NM) and Angie Craig (D-MN) and Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY).

"For nearly 250 years, we called the Bald Eagle the national bird when it wasn't," said Jack Davis, co-chair of the National Bird Initiative for the National Eagle Center. "But now the title is official, and no bird is more deserving."

The Birding Community E-Bulletin, January 2025

You can find an archive of past E-Bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association: www.refugeassociation.org/birding-birding-community-e-bulletin

CAREFULLY WATCHING BIRD FLU

Right now, the H5N1 strain of the bird flu has been causing significant outbreaks in both poultry and wild birds, with over 12,000 wild birds detected as of mid-February. These species included eiders and scoters in Massachusetts, Snow Geese in Pennsylvania, Red-breasted Mergansers in Illinois, Eared Grebes in Utah, Blue-winged Teal in Louisiana, Mallards in Indiana, and Western Gulls in California.

Toward the end of February came the grim announcement that an estimated 1,500 Sandhill Cranes had died from bird flu in Indiana, with accompanying reports of "sick zombie birds."

Meanwhile, outbreaks have torn through poultry and dairy farms, with economic implications being evident, particularly regarding egg supplies and poultry prices. (The notorious "price of eggs" was even a factor in last year's national election).

This has also impacted a variety of mammals from house cats and dogs to elephant seals, and has raised concerns for a potential crossover to a human pandemic. In the U.S., there have been about 70 reported cases since last April, indicating the virus can spread from animals to humans. Public health officials are carefully monitoring the situation to prevent further spread.

When it comes to backyard bird-feeding stations, this situation is less of a risk, since the virus doesn't commonly infect songbirds that may visit feeders.

Here's a valuable CDC summary, covering the wild bird situation as of 25 February:
https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/data-map-wild-birds.html.

The Birding Community E-Bulletin, March 2025

You can access an archive of past E-Bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association: www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin.

DONATIONS, MEMORIAL, AND HONORARIA

Pam Lasley, TOS Treasurer

TOS received the following donations, memorial, and honoraria in 2024:

Memorials

In memory of Dr. Charlie McCrary by Carol Katz
In memory of Sandra Jean Gandy Curtis by Patricia Hester

In appreciation for Discover Birds Activity Books

Sheila Bentley
Melissa Dotson

General Donations

Jennifer and Jay Mills Foundation

Southeastern Avian Winter Hummingbird Report 2024-25 Season

By Cyndi Routledge

The following hummingbirds were captured, banded and released on the date listed:

10/1/24 – Hickman County – Rufous Hummingbird – AHY/male

11/9/24 – Davidson County – Rufous Hummingbird – AHY/female

11/16/24 – Shelby County – Rufous Hummingbird – AHY/female

11/29/24 – Coffee County – Ruby-throated Hummingbird – HY/female

11/30/24 – Anderson County – Rufous Hummingbird – HY/female

11/30/24 – Unicoi County – Rufous Hummingbird – AHY/female

12/5/24 – Williamson County – Ruby-throated Hummingbird – HY/male

12/7/24 – Blount County – Rufous Hummingbird – HY/female

12/11/24 – Smith County – Rufous Hummingbird – HY/male

1/4/25 – Weakley County – Rufous Hummingbird – SY/female

The following hummingbirds were reported to me and went unbanded but were documented by host with pictures:

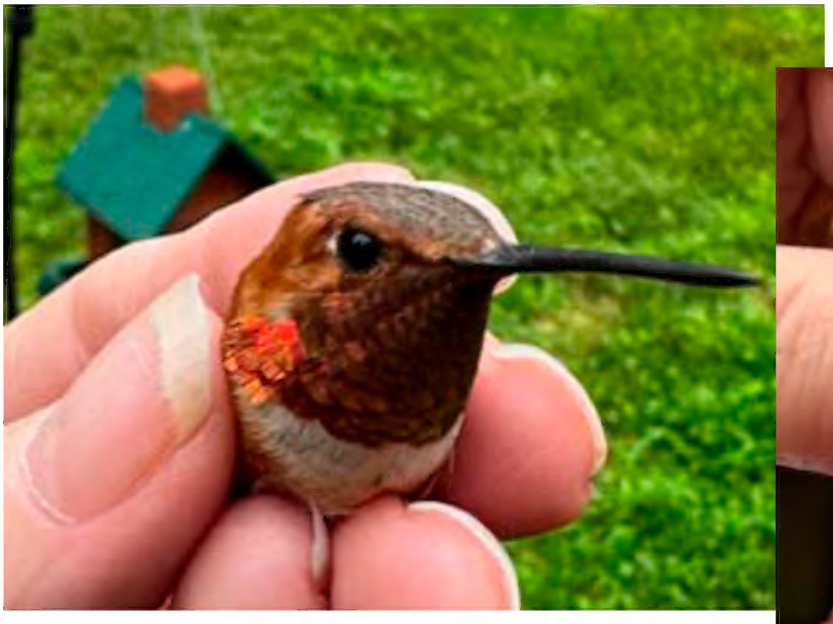
8/10/24 - Charlotte, TN – Rufous Hummingbird – AHY/male

8/15/24 – Davidson County - Rufous Hummingbird – AHY/male. Seen one afternoon.

11/18/24 – Montgomery County –Ruby-throated Hummingbird – HY/male. Seen one morning

12/4/24 – Ooltawah, TN – Calliope Hummingbird – female/unknown age

1/10/25 – Shelbyville, TN – Rufous Hummingbird – female/unknown age



Rufous Hummingbird
Picture taken by Cyndi Routledge

Black-chinned Hummingbird
Picture taken by Cyndi Routledge

GLOBAL BIG DAY OCTOBER 12, 2024

Coinciding with World Migratory Bird Day, the Global Big Day is a worldwide effort to record as many of the world's 11,108 species as possible within one 24 hour period. By participating, birders not only enjoy a day of bird watching, but contribute to global bird conservation efforts.

Participants contribute valuable data via eBird (www.ebird.org), the citizen science project that collects bird observations from all over the globe. By reporting your observations using eBird, you help scientists track bird populations, migration patterns and conservation efforts.

On Saturday, October 12, 2024, birders submitted 105,751 complete checklists, reporting 7,994 species (72% of world's species). Just over 6,300 photos, videos, and sound recording were also submitted.

Birders in the United States submitted the greatest number of these checklists (41,261), followed by Canada (7,248), Columbia (6,497), Argentina (4,220) and Brazil (3,769). Birders in Columbia reported the most species (1,411), followed by Peru (1,352), Brazil (1,244), Ecuador (1,153) and Bolivia (831). Birders in the United States came in thirteenth, with 706 species.

In the U. S., Texas reported the most species (375), followed by California (360), Arizona (281), Florida (270) and Oregon (248). The most checklists were submitted by birders in California (4,148), New York (2,575), Florida (2,236), Texas (1,848) and Pennsylvania (1,758).

Tennessee birders reported a total of 178 species (28th) on 614 checklists (23rd). Cliff VanNostrand reported the most species (119) followed by Alan Troyer (109), and Sophia Dismukes (86). Roi and Debbie Shannon submitted the most checklists (12). Jarvis Shirky, Puma Pheasant and Melinda Welton tied at (9). Cliff VanNostrand submitted (8).

The most species reported by county: Shelby (139), Hamilton (104), Davidson (103), Knox (91) and Dyer (82). The most checklists submitted by county: Shelby (92), Davidson (80), Hamilton (59), Knox (59) and Williamson (24). Sixty-one of the states ninety-five counties submitted at least one complete checklist, and 72 counties reported at least one species.

The next Global Big Day will be held on Saturday, May, 10, 2025.

Source: Cornell University Lab of Ornithology

For more details: www.ebird.org.

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2025

The 28th Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was conducted February 14th through February 17th. What started as a true backyard count has evolved into a global effort to add to our knowledge of bird populations and their distribution.

Using eBird to submit their checklists, over 700,000 observers from 253 countries and regions entered 321,800 complete checklists. Observers reported 8,082 species, seventy-three percent of the world's roughly 11,100 species. Observers in the United States submitted the most checklists (163,827), followed by India (65,639) and Canada (21,141). Observers in Columbia reported the most species (1,324), followed by Ecuador (1,129), Brazil (1,091), India (1,055), and Peru (871). Observers in The United States reported 670 species, which ranked 12th among nations. California led with 375 species, followed by Texas (367), Florida (312), Arizona (294) and Washington (224). California also led with 15,479 checklists submitted, followed by Texas (11,022), Florida (10,907), New York (8,980) and Pennsylvania (7,308). Tennessee bird watchers submitted 2,812 checklists (23rd) containing 153 species (24th). At least one complete checklist was submitted from 84 of our 95 counties. Knox County birders submitted the most checklists (346) followed by Shelby (315), Davidson (252), Hamilton (244), and Williamson (173). Shelby County observers reported the most species (119) followed by Hamilton (105) and Knox (104). Blount (101) and Lincoln (100).

Among Tennessee birders, Roi and Debbie Shannon submitted the most complete checklists (69), followed by Puma Pheasant (38), Melissa Turrentine (31), and Alysia Baker (26), with Cliff VanNostrand, Evan Kidd and Francis Fekel tied with 24. Roi and Debbie Shannon and Dick Preston led with 101 species, followed by Tim Lenz (99), Avery Fish (92) and Morton Massey (90).

Among the more unusual species reported in Tennessee: Iceland, Little and California Gulls, Red-throated and Pacific Loons, and a Calliope Hummingbird.

The 29th GBBC will be held February 13th through February 16th, 2026.

More information may be found at: www.birdcount.org

Editor's note: Totals are as of press time. Minor changes may occur.

"WISDOM" IS BACK AND INCUBATING

In case you missed the announcement in early December, you might want to know: "Wisdom," the female Laysan Albatross and the oldest known wild bird – at age 74 – has returned to Midway Atoll and is once again on a new egg.

Wisdom, her new mate, and her fellow seabirds come to this Pacific island every fall to nest, typically arriving around our Thanksgiving time. The current egg is Wisdom's first in four years, and observers have previously surmised that she was past her egg-laying life, but they were wrong. She had a long-time mate, named Akenkamai, who disappeared several years ago. But Wisdom began interacting with another male when she returned toward the end of November.

Like other Laysan Albatrosses, Wisdom will return to the same nesting site at Midway, but not necessarily every year, to reunite with her mate and raise a young. Laysan Albatrosses do not typically lay eggs every year, and when they do, they lay only one.

Through the years, Wisdom has been individually identified by her leg band, sometimes replaced to adjust for wear. USFWS staff estimated that she produced up to 60 eggs and as many as 30 chicks that have fledged. Wisdom was first banded in December 1956 by the esteemed field-biologist, Chandler Robbins, after she laid an egg, which is how her age has been estimated.

Over three million seabirds are thought to return to Midway National Wildlife Refuge – known as Kuaihelani in Hawaiian – every fall to nest and raise young.

See more on Wisdom and current nesting story here:
https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c86w9n4jlvwo or a short video from biologist volunteer Dan Rapp, capturing the moment Wisdom's mate takes his first incubation shift:

https://friendsofmidway.org/wisdom-was-sighted-near-her-usual-nest-site-on-kuaihelani-midway-atoll-on-november-25-2024-the-next-day-she-lays-an-egg/

The Birding Community E-Bulletin, January 2025

You can find an archive of past E-bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association: www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin.

CHAPTER NEWS

Several **BIRDING KINGSPORT** members birded at Phipps Bend on November 26. It was a perfect-weather morning and some highlights of our 39 species were 24 Wood Ducks, several Red-shouldered Hawks, five Golden-crowned Kinglets, and a couple of Winter Wrens. Two dates in late December, ten members went on a field trip to three counties searching for winter waterfowl with Susan & Mike Hubley leading. We tallied 49 species. Notable sightings were Sandhill Cranes, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and many duck species. We had an awesome trip on January 17-21 to Paris Landing State Park and surrounding areas, thanks to the planning of Susan & Mike Hubley. Twenty folks participated and we saw 81 species. It was so much fun! We had a local bird walk on the Kingsport Greenbelt on February 13 with Bambi Fincher and Sherrie Quillen leading. Six participants found 20 species. Several folks participated in a walk at Bays Mountain Park on February 14 in celebration of the Great Backyard Bird Count.

We had a Christmas tree in Glen Bruce Park in downtown Kingsport. We also shared a tent at Exchange Place's "Christmas in the Country" on December 7 with Kera Brewster of Wild Birds Unlimited in Johnson City. Volunteers made pinecone bird feeders with children. On December 14, twenty-six members attended our holiday social at Riverfront Seafood. We all enjoyed great food and fellowship. We participated in Audubon's 125th Christmas Bird Count on a cold day, January 4.

Our January program was "Birds of South Africa" presented by members Richard & June Siggins. Our February program was "Hummingbirds of Ecuador" presented by Cyndi Routledge. Both programs were very enjoyable with outstanding pictures.

TOS supporter David B. Taylor, Jr. passed away on March 4.

Leadership Team

The **CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER** has been fortunate to see some rare birds in our area. These include an American Bittern, Horned Larks, Lapland Longspur, Sora (all seen at Standifer Gap Marsh), Red-throated Loon (Chickamauga Dam) and a Calliope Hummingbird located at a private residence where birders were welcome.

Some of our engaging speakers included Sandra Kurtz who described the long journey to the development of the Chattanooga Greenway, wildlife photographer Donna Bourdon, and some of our own members, including Luke Thompson who gave advice on birding on a budget in Panama, along with some risky escapades that paid off by finding the bird. Expert birders Tommie Rogers, Clyde Blum and Tim Lenz spent an evening giving birding tips and answering questions for one of our meetings; the tips and stories were helpful and interesting, sparking some great discussions.

Our field trips included meeting KTOS members at Hiwassee to see the Sandhill Cranes and other birds, a morning at McDonald's Farm, and Sim's Sod Farm where a Wilson's Snipe flew close enough to give us all a good look.

We are looking forward to hosting the spring TOS meeting and hope to see everyone there!

Ann Glass, Secretary

July 15th Deadline

The deadline date for the August issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is July 15th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:

Theresa Graham, Editor
(901) 489-0795
e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

CHAPTER NEWS

The **LEE AND LOIS HERNDON CHAPTER** of TOS had five chapter members recognized earlier this year for earning Howard Langridge awards for species of birds seen in 2024 in the five-county area of Northeast Tennessee.

The award recognizes any club member seeing more than 200 species in the counties of Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington in a single calendar year.

Recipients and species total were: Rick Knight, 221; Joe McGuiness, 204; Brookie Potter, 206; Jean Potter, 206; and Roy Knispel, 209.

The award commemorates the contributions of the late Howard P. Langridge to birding in the region. In 2000, Langridge broke the record for most species seen in a single year in Northeast Tennessee. The record was later broken again by Rick Knight, who still holds the record.

The 82nd Elizabethton Christmas Bird Count was held Saturday, December 14, with 24 observers in six parties. According to compiler Rick Knight, this year's CBC tallied 71 species, with an additional three species seen during "count week," which is defined as three days before or after count day. The three species found during count week were American Wigeon, Killdeer and Pine Warbler.

The total was just below the recent 40-year average of 72 species. The all-time high was 85 species recorded in 2017.

Among other activities, the chapter is in the process of planning its annual banquet, spring bird count and summer picnic. Club president is Dave Gardner.

Bryan Stevens

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER'S program in January, **"Owls and Raptors"** was presented by Valerie and Lyle Russell, founders of Middle Tennessee Raptor Center. They rescue, rehabilitate and release birds of prey. Not only did Valerie share facts about these birds, but she also brought a few of their non-releasable owls and falcons for us to admire and appreciate up close. Valerie and Lyle are lifesaving angels for these magnificent creatures.

In February our program, **"Songbirds of Tennessee"**, was presented by Laurie Anderson. Laurie pulled from her photo archives and created a beautiful video presentation of her last 10 years of photographing songbirds in Tennessee. To name a few of the birds Laurie captured on film in a variety of poses: Philadelphia Vireo, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Chipping Sparrows, Palm Warbler, Painted Bunting, Summer Tanager, and Rose- Breasted Grosbeak. The beauty of the birds, and Laurie's talent as a photographer and knowledge of the songbirds, made this a very enjoyable evening. To borrow the quote from Laurie's video, "Birds teach a great life lesson. All you have to do is listen to their songs". You can watch her video on YouTube by searching Laurie Anderson Photography.

In March our program **Birds of South Africa and the Galapagos Islands** was presented by Cheryl and Murray King. Cheryl and Murray presented a slide show of their earlier trip to Galapagos Islands and South Africa. They shared several pictures with us, here is a small list of the birds: Magnificent Frigatebird, Cock-of-the-rock bird, Tropicbird, Vermillion Fly Catcher, and Sword-billed Hummingbird.

A few of us were able to get to Joe Wheeler Wildlife Refuge to see the thousands of Sandhill Cranes. No Whooping Cranes were spotted on this day,. We were treated to Ruby-crowned Kinglets thanks to the photographers who gave us heads up where these cuties were.

Laurie has had a Northern Rough-Winged Swallow at her home the past three days. What a treat! We are sure to see some beautiful photos of this rare siting.

Listen to the Birds,
Janie Denis

CHAPTER NEWS

The **KNOXVILLE CHAPTER** of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (KTOS) had regular monthly meetings for the winter season and is continuing with regular meetings in the spring.

KTOS members participated in several Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) in the area, including the Cades Cove CBC, East Knox CBC, Great Smoky Mountains CBC, Knoxville CBC, and Norris CBC. Field trips this Winter season were to Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge to view Sandhill Cranes, Seven Islands State Birding Park, Melton Hill Lake, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama, and Kyker Bottoms. The group trip to Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge was an exciting and fun trip as the members that went on it were able to see 9 Whooping Cranes, hundreds of Sandhill Cranes, and countless numbers of other waterfowl species. Several members participated in Woodcock Walks at Seven Islands State Birding Park to observe the Woodcock spring flight displays and calling in the fields.

Presenters at the winter club meetings have included Dr. David Aborn from University of Tennessee-Chattanooga talking about the history of tracking bird movements, and Clare Dattilo from Seven Islands State Birding Park providing updates on what has been happening at the park.

KTOS members are looking forward to preparing for upcoming migration season!

Stephanie Mueller, Secretary

The **LEBANON CHAPTER** TOS (John Sellars) has continued monthly bird outings. We are trying to have an additional program here and there. Our kickoff program on March 25 was "Master Bander" by Cynthia Routledge. It was held at the Jimmy Floyd Family Center in Lebanon. Cyndi shared information about everyone's favorite, the Hummers!!

Other past outings included birding our local, nearby state parks, especially Cedars of Lebanon State Park. There is now a paved trail which provides good birding year-round. Please join us for any outing. In February we enjoyed birding with our wonderful group and had nice birds at Long Hunter State Park. Recent drought in the lake area may have encouraged ducks and loons to vacate, but other birds made up for it. A Hermit Thrush was present in the parking lot at the beginning and end!

Come join us on the Third Saturdays except July and August.

Melissa Turrentine

IN MEMORY

Dr. George Robertson, of Lebanon, passed away on March 2nd, 2025. He was 83 years old. He and his wife Linda, who survives, along other family, were members of TOS for many years. Linda remains a TOS member. George and Linda often supported two TOS groups, attending Nashville Chapter and the Lebanon Chapter meetings and outings. George was passionate about being active, always moving. This was evident in his pastime activities, such as biking and hiking. His "always moving" attitude often found George to be ahead of the birding group in distance, but he still would report what he had observed. George was a traveler, often doing mission work utilizing his doctor's skills. And it is assured he noticed the birds while in each country he visited. George was an avid outdoor enthusiast and hunter. We will miss our adventurous soul in our birding group. Our condolences to wife Linda, whom we much admire and appreciate.

Melissa Turrentine

CHAPTER NEWS

The **J. WALLACE COFFEY CHAPTER** (Bristol Bird Club) has had a busy and interesting spring, thanks to many good leaders. Field trips have been to the Weir Dam, Oceola Island, Musick's Campground at Holston Lake and the 421 Boat Ramp. There have been regular 2nd Thursday morning or evening walks at Steele Creek Park. Other trips have been to Western Washington Co., Jacob's Nature Park in Johnson City, and the Panhandle Rd. on Holston Mountain.

Events:
Larry McDaniel and Janet Brown hosted an evening in March to listen and look for Woodcocks at their "Little Biscuit Mini Farm". It was a wonderful evening of food and fun!

The BBC was invited to join Wild Birds Unlimited in Johnston City where a table was set up with lots of bird club information.

Some members participated in the Roan Mt. Naturalist Rally in April and have done this for many years.

Another event was held at "Little Biscuit Mini Farm" in June for "Whips" and "Chucks". Everyone enjoys these events and look forward to them. Another bonus is seeing the baby farm animals. What a treat!

Committee Reports:
The BBC executive committee met in June to define leadership roles of officers, future goals and to establish a role for someone to keep the club website updated.

Another planning committee was formed in order to come up with ideas to get more people involved with the Mendota Hawk Watch led by Ron Harrington. The BBC has been involved in this since the 1990's and since 2002 has sponsored this watch in Mendota, VA.

At the May meeting the election of officers was held with the following results:

Debi Campbell, President: Michelle Sparks, First Vice President; Larry McDaniel, Second Vice President; Judy Moose, Secretary: Brenda Richards, Treasurer. Appointments are Rob Biller for Media Specialist, Richard Lewis as historian and statistician as he has been for many years.

Presentations:
In March, Chris Sota, the editor of a Land Trust Alliance presented a wonderful program entitled "Italy – A Visual Feast". This included beautiful landscape pictures and fauna and flora of Italy.

Roy Knispel presented "Arizona Birds and Other Sites." An informative program not only about birds but the historical significance of the areas.

Rachel Whiteman presented our May program on "For the Birds: The Making of a Story Map for Birding the Roan Mt. Area". She is an M.S. candidate at ETSU in Geospatial Analysis. It was interesting and informative.

In June Debi Campbell, our new club president, gave a talk about a wonderful camping trip to Rock Creek Recreation Area in the Cherokee National Forest. "Not Just Birds" gave lots of information about plants, animals and birds. They even saw a Luna Moth coming out of its cocoon!

In Memory: We were sad to announce that John Hay passed away on April 12. John was a former President and member of the BBC for many years. He was a resident of Kingsport, TN. He was a special person who was knowledgeable in many areas of the natural world and always willing to share his knowledge.

Judy Moose, Secretary

CHAPTER NEWS

On January 25, three dedicated members of the **MEMPHIS CHAPTER**, Caroline Schratz, Adrian Hall, and Liz Hall, volunteered at the Lichterman Nature Center's Annual "Birds and the Seeds" event. During the event, community members had the opportunity to learn about MTOS, discover how to become a member, and get a sneak peek of upcoming field trips. The event also featured a brief educational session on how to use binoculars, followed by an MTOS-led birding walk around the beautiful grounds of the Nature Center.

Unfortunately, the winter weather has led to many of the January and February field trips being canceled. However, one field trip came together last minute and was a real treat:

Rodney Barber Park, Feb 9 (trip leader Ryan Pudwell): This impromptu field trip focused on the American Woodcock, with weather and viewing conditions aligning perfectly. Despite the chilly 37°F temperature and brief light rain showers, 10 participants gathered at 4:30 p.m., giving us an hour of birding before the woodcocks began their distinctive calls and aerial displays. About 10 minutes after sunset, we heard the first "peent" call. After a few more minutes there were a couple more calling. Soon after that they were starting to display. At one point there were three airborne at the same time while there were a couple more on the ground calling. As the woodcocks were starting to display, Michael Collins noticed a Great Horned Owl nearby, but it moved before he was able to alert the rest of the group. After a little while we all decided it was time to leave. As I was returning to my truck, I heard a couple more woodcocks calling from a different area than where we had been, bringing our total to 7 for the evening.

Liz Hall, President

The **NASHVILLE CHAPTER** started out the new year by awarding a $1000 Conservation Grant to Clarksville/Montgomery County's Middle College Bird Alliance organization led by biology teacher Brandy Schnettler. This great group of 11th and 12th grade public school birders have participated in local Christmas, fall and spring bird Counts sponsored by Warioto Audubon, conducted feeder counts and monitoring and volunteered at the annual Hummingbird Festival at Rotary Park for the past couple years. The grant purchased 5 pairs of 8x42 Vortex HD binoculars for use by those who do not own their own binoculars yet want to participate and learn about birds.

KTOS member Ron Hoff and Kingsport member Susan Hubley ventured to Nashville to present programs about their travels for our Chapter.

Wednesday morning Radnor Lake walks will soon begin. The first will be held on April 23rd and the last on May 14th. The walks begin at 7:30 am in the west parking lot outside the Visitor's Center and ends at Long Bridge a few hours later.

Many thanks to all who kept a hummingbird feeder out this winter, watching for those rare and special western hummingbirds. SEAR celebrated 10 years of research and education this past year. Please continue to keep watching and report any non-Ruby-throat sightings to me directly: routledges@bellsouth.net

Cyndi Routledge, President